

CWWG, under the direction of Craig Williams, has played a vital role in the demilitarization of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky. I have worked with the CWWG on this important issue and I know how strongly many Kentuckians feel about disposing of these weapons in the safest and quickest manner possible.

Although it took some time, the public and political pressure from CWWG was instrumental in the Department of Defense's decision to use water neutralization, not incineration, to destroy the chemical weapons at Blue Grass Army Depot. CWWG's research efforts to demonstrate effective alternatives to incineration were beneficial to all parties involved in this important decision.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate to pay tribute to the Chemical Weapons Working Group for their role in protecting the environment and the thousands of Kentuckians that live near the Blue Grass Army Depot. ●

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES F. JOHNSON

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. James F. Johnson, an outstanding public servant, who is retiring from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after an exemplary career spanning more than three decades. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of service and contributions to improving both the water resources of our Nation and the quality of Federal Government services.

Throughout his 32-year career with the Federal Government, Dr. Johnson has distinguished himself for his leadership, commitment, and dedication to public service, to making government work better, and to addressing some of our Nation's most critical water resource problems. Beginning in Corps of Engineers Headquarters as a program manager, he quickly advanced through the ranks to positions in senior management, including service as Chief of the Eastern Planning Management Branch, Special Assistant to the Chief of Planning, and Acting Assistant Director of Civil Works for the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes region.

I first came to know Jim when he was selected as Chief of the Planning and Policy Division at the Baltimore District in 1985. During his 13-year tenure in Baltimore, I had the opportunity to work closely with him and his planning team on a number of water resource initiatives in the State of Maryland and the broader Chesapeake Bay Region, including the restoration of the north end of Assateague Island, the Coastal Bays of Maryland, and the Anacostia River. I know first hand the extraordinary leadership, vision and expertise Jim brought not only to projects in this region, but equally important, to building and encouraging one of the finest, most responsive and innovative planning teams in the Nation.

Among his accomplishments, perhaps the one that stands out most and underscores Jim's professionalism and creativity is the role he played in the planning, design and policy development process of one of the Corps' greatest success stories—the restoration of Poplar Island. This project, which is taking clean dredged materials from the channels leading to the Port of Baltimore and using it to restore a chain of environmentally sensitive islands in the Chesapeake Bay, has become a national model for habitat restoration and the beneficial use of dredged material. But developing and winning approval of the project was no easy task. The size and scale of the project were unprecedented. Federal policies at the time greatly limited the funding and contained other disincentives to making this a viable option. Jim and his planning staff put in countless hours helping to resolve these problems and develop innovative solutions that ultimately led to the construction of the project, relief for Maryland's dredged material disposal problem and development of the largest environmentally restoration initiative ever undertaken in the Chesapeake Bay.

Jim Johnson's contributions and accomplishments over the years have been recognized through many prestigious awards including the Army Decoration for Meritorious Civilian Service and the Secretary of Army Award for Publications Improvement, but perhaps no more so than by his selection in 1998 to return to Headquarters as Chief of the Planning and Policy Division of the Directorate of Civil Works. In this prestigious position, he has been responsible for managing some \$200 million annually in water resource investments for navigation, ecosystem restoration, and flood and storm protection. He also developed and implemented a new program to expand planner training and leadership skills.

Dr. Johnson has served the Nation with distinction. His efforts, work ethic, and abiding sense of responsibility and commitment have earned him the admiration of everyone with whom he has worked. I have enormous respect for the professionalism, ingenuity, and integrity which he brought to the positions in which he has served and greatly value the assistance he has provided to me and my staff over the years.

It is my firm conviction that public service is one of the most honorable callings, one that demands the very best, most dedicated efforts of those who have the opportunity to serve their fellow citizens and country. Throughout his career Jim Johnson has exemplified a steadfast commitment to meeting this demand. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of hard work and dedication and wish him well in the years ahead. ●

RETIREMENT OF JOHN B. BROWN III, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DEA

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, James Bryant Conant once said that "each honest calling, each walk of life, has its own elite, its own aristocracy, based on excellence of performance." I rise today to pay tribute to a man who is a member of the law enforcement elite, John B. Brown III, the Acting Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

John Brown has spent more than three decades as a special agent in the Drug Enforcement Administration. Last year he capped his law enforcement career when he was appointed deputy administrator of the agency. And when former Administrator Asa Hutchinson was appointed as under secretary at the Department of Homeland Security, John Brown was tapped to be Acting Director of the DEA.

John Brown is a dedicated, hard-working government leader. He is known at the DEA and in the larger law enforcement community as a thoughtful, personable administrator and a man of great humility.

His career at the DEA has been a distinguished one. As a young agent he worked in Mexico where he was deeply involved in the investigation into the murder of Kiki Camarena, the brave DEA agent who was tortured and killed by Mexican drug traffickers. During that time as in the rest of his career—whether it was in Miami, the Dallas field division, the El Paso intelligence center or at DEA Headquarters—John Brown rose to the challenge and excelled at each assignment.

But it was John Brown's first job as a teacher that really shaped him as an agent. John is known by the people who worked for him at DEA as a great teacher, someone who took the time to coach them, to motivate them, to counsel them. For that reason, he is one of the most popular administrators at DEA, and one of the most respected.

As a school teacher, John quickly found that many of the problems he saw among students in his classroom involved learning the skills and attitudes and character to cope with life. Drug use was becoming widespread in the early 1970s and prompted John to decide to join DEA as a special agent.

In truth, he never left the classroom. He has said many times that one of his proudest moments at DEA came when a former student—someone who as a young student had listened to one of his talks about the perils of drug use came up to him in an airport years later. He introduced himself, said that he had a great job and a wonderful family—both of which he said would have been impossible had he joined his many friends who used drugs in high school. He credited John Brown's talk on drugs with keeping away from a life of substance abuse.

I would be remiss if I did not mention John's wife, Christine Brown, who has been a source of tremendous support